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LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that owing to the action taken by the Iraqi army against the local population in Northern Iraq, approximately 220,000 Iraqi citizens, many of them women and children, are currently massed along the Turkish border.

It is apparent that the Iraqi Government forces are deliberately pressing these people towards the Turkish border in order to drive them out of their country. These actions violate all norms of behaviour towards civilian populations and constitute an excessive use of force and a threat to the region's peace and security. In the course of the Iraqi operations, which are being carried out with the support of helicopters and artillery, many mortar shells have actually landed on Turkish territory.

Turkey is taking appropriate action to bring urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected Iraqi civilians. It is expected that the heavy burden of caring for these victims of repression will be shared by international organizations as well as by those countries in a position to assist.

I request that a meeting of the Security Council be convened immediately to consider this alarming situation and to adopt the necessary measures to put an end to this inhuman repression being carried out on a massive scale.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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